

instructions have been communicated by the concerned Ministries to the respective undertakings.

PROCUREMENT PRICES FOR KHARIF CROPS

283. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :
SHRI G. C. DIXIT :
SHRI LAKHAN LAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to give bonus to the States for better procurement;

(b) if so, how many States have been given this bonus;

(c) whether there is a proposal also that the bonus should be given to the growers direct; and

(d) if so, when the final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No bonus is being paid to the States for better procurement as such. However, under the incentive bonus scheme, bonuses are being paid to the surplus States for making supplies from internal procurement to the central pool.

(b) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana are entitled to the bonus under the scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

CROP INSURANCE

284. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :
SHRIMATI TARA SAPRE :
SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI :
SHRI RANDHIR SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments have sent their comments on the proposed Bill on crop insurance;

(b) if so, the nature of the comments received; and

(c) when the proposed Bill is expected to be introduced in Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Only the States of Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal and U.P. have sent their tentative view on the pilot scheme of Crop Insurance, pending examination of provisions of the Draft Bill.

(b) These States broadly agree with the principles of insurance scheme and the draft Bill, but they have expressed mis-givings regarding their own capacity to assume the financial burden in the initial stages and have stressed the need for Central assistance. They have also pointed out organisational difficulties in operating the scheme and emphasised the need for intensive studies before implementing the pilot scheme.

(c) Efforts will be made to introduce the Bill in the current Session of Parliament provided replies from the State Governments are received in time for finalising the provisions of the draft Bill.

BUFFER STOCK OF FOODGRAINS

285. SHRI Y. A. PRASAD :
SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA :
SHRI D. N. DEB :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that discussions were held with the U.S. Embassy officials in October, 1967 for the building of buffer stock of two to three million tonnes of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussions have not yet been concluded.